AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A carrier for diagnosis and/or follow-up of a Treponema infection, comprising

a) at least one immobilized cardiolipin and

b) at least one immobilized Treponema-specific antigen.

2. (Previously presented) The carrier according to 1, characterized in that the cardiolipin is present together with lecithin and cholesterol as Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) antigen.

3. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the cardiolipin is present in at least two[[,]] different concentrations at different positions of the carrier.

4. (Withdrawn) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that at least two different Treponema antigens are present in different positions on the carrier.

5. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the at least one Treponema-specific antigen is selected from Treponema pallidum-specific antigens.

6. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier further comprises controls.

7. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier comprises a serum control.

8. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier comprises a cut-off control.

9. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier comprises a serum control and a cut-off control.

10. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier comprises a material selected from the group consisting of nitrocellulose, PVDF (polyvinylidene difluoride), nylon, cellulose acetate, and polystyrene, wherein the at least one immobilized cardiolipin and at least one immobilized Treponema-specific antigen are immobilized on the material.

11. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is a test strip for use in immunodiagnostics.

12. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is an immunoblot.

13. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 2, characterized in that the VDRL antigen ~~applied to~~is present at different positions on the carrier ~~allows a differentiation between~~ such that anti-VDRL-IgG and anti-VDRL-IgM antibodies can be differentiated after reaction with a patient's sample.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for diagnosis and/or follow-up of a Treponema infection comprising:

contacting a carrier according to claim 1 with a patient's sample and

determining the presence of antibodies against a Treponema antigen and/or a cardiolipin on the test strip.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, comprising determining the reactivity of antibodies from a patient's serum with the cardiolipin of the test strip several times over a prolonged period of time.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the patient's sample is blood, serum, plasma, liquor or synovial fluid.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the assessment is performed through the evaluation software ViraScan®.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, further comprising differentiating anti-VDRL-IgG and anti-VDRL-IgM antibodies in a patient's sample.

19. (Previously presented) A test kit for the diagnosis of a Treponema infection and/or the follow-up of a Treponema infection, comprising a carrier according to claim 1 and further reagents as well as an instruction manual for using the carrier.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing or following-up a Treponema infection in a patient comprising:

contacting a sample from a patient with a carrier according to claim 1 and

measuring antibodies from the sample bound to the carrier.

21. (Currently amended) The carrier according to 1, characterized in that ~~the~~ cardiolipin, lecithin, and cholesterol are present in a cardiolipin : lecithin : cholesterol ~~is present in a~~ mass ratio of 0.1-4.0 : 1-5.0 : 1-10.

22. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 3, wherein the cardiolipin is present in at least three different concentrations, at different positions of the carrier.

23. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 3, wherein the cardiolipin is present in at least four different concentrations, at different positions of the carrier.

24. (Withdrawn) The carrier according to claim 4, wherein at least three different Treponema antigens are present in different positions on the carrier.

25. (Withdrawn) The carrier according to claim 4, wherein at least four different Treponema antigens are present in different positions on the carrier.

26. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 5, wherein the at least one Treponema pallidum-specific antigen is~~are~~ selected from the group consisting of the 15 kD, 17 kD, 44.5 kD and 47 kD antigens.

27. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 7, wherein the serum control comprises protein A.

28. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 8, wherein the cut-off control comprises purified human immunoglobulin.

29. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 9, wherein the serum control comprises protein A, and the cut-off control comprises human immunoglobulin.

30. (Previously presented) The carrier according to claim 13, wherein the patient's sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, liquor, and synovial fluid.

31. (New) The carrier according to claim 10, characterized in that the carrier comprises nitrocellulose.

32. (New) A test strip for diagnosis and/or follow-up of a Treponema infection, wherein the test strip comprises cardiolipin and at least one Treponema-specific antigen immobilized on the test strip to permit binding of an antibody specific for cardiolipin and an antibody specific for the Treponema-specific antigen(s).

33. (New) The test strip of claim 32, wherein cardiolipin is present together with lecithin and cholesterol as Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) antigen.

34. (New) The test strip of claim 33, wherein the VDRL antigen and at least one Treponema-specific antigen are immobilized at multiple positions on the test strip.

35. (New) The test strip of claim 34, wherein the test strip comprises nitrocellulose.